



Kewa Child Care and Development

PO BOX 238
Kewa Pueblo, NM 87052
(505) 415-1344

February 25, 2021

Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how Kewa Pueblo plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. **Direct Services/Subsidies** The Kewa Pueblo's Kewa Child Care and Development Program will use the funds to:
 - Continue to pay providers and teachers when stay at home orders and closures prohibits a child from attending/receiving their child care services.
 - To pay Hazard Pay for child care providers and teachers that work to provide emergency child care services authorized by the Governor of Kewa Pueblo, in accordance with the "Santo Domingo Tribe Employee Personnel Manual."
 - To provide mini grants to essential and frontline workers that cannot transport their child into the Pueblo to receive childcare services due to Kewa Pueblo closures that explicitly prohibit non-residential tribal members access into the Pueblo. Each case will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Purchase appropriate PPE for child care homes and center-based services and any other materials and supplies that help in preventing the spread of the Novel Corona virus.
 - To purchase materials and supplies for child care homes that support children's distance learning needs.
2. **Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices**

- The Kewa Child Care and Development Program will provide resources, supplies and technical assistance to support the health and safety practices that reflect the guidance of the New Mexico Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - For example, outdoor handwashing stations on the playground.
 - Including any minor upgrades or improvements to bathroom commodes and sinks that are motion-censored to help with fewer high touch surfaces
 - Supplies and equipment to create a safe isolation room for children that become sick that need to be quarantined until picked up from parent/guardian
- 3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers**
- The Kewa Child Care and Development program will increase payment rates for child care providers to assist providers in meeting increased operating expenses.
 - The subsidy will be based on the Child's enrollment versus attendance.
 - The increase will remain in effect until the Kewa Pueblo's stay at home order is lifted or when funds run low.
- 4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic**
- The Kewa Child Care and Development Program has not determined how to use funds under this category. The plan is still in process and further guidance is being sought.
- 5. Other**
- To Purchase Materials and Supplies that Provide Culturally Appropriate Activity toolkits that support culture and language;
 - To Purchase Nutritious snack/food items for Children to promote nutrition and wellness, especially due to the lack of access and distance from grocery stores. The tribe's most strict stay at home order only allows each household one essential shopping day;
 - To Perform deep cleaning/sanitizing of child care homes affected by the Novel Coronavirus, as needed;
 - Provide referrals and resources for therapy/coaching for trauma & grief for families, including those families struggling to obtain special needs services that aid in the child's distance learning;
 - Provide infant/toddler care packages that include diapers, wipes, formula, safe sleep equipment and any other supplies that are difficult for mothers to obtain on essential shopping days;
 - Provide training opportunities for child care providers to help identify trauma mental health impacts in infants and young children as a result of the global pandemic;
 - To Provide activities and resources for staff and childcare providers to address self-care and mental health issues that arise during the pandemic;
 - To purchase air purifiers for child care homes and center-based care, ensuring proper ventilation;
 - To purchase shelving units for storage of emergency stock of PPE and Cleaning Supplies for child care homes and center-based services;

- To purchase wellness kits for virtual season programming that promotes health and wellness for school aged children.

The Kewa Pueblo's Kewa Child Care and Development will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tiffany Calabaza
Program Director
Kewa Child Care and Development
Kewa Pueblo

cc: Gwendolyn Jones, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 6
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